REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 2, 4-16 and 18-21 are pending. Claims 3 and 17 have been cancelled.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that Claims 16 and 20 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the Section 112 rejection and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. New Claim 21 includes the subject matter of Claim 16 rewritten to overcome the Section 112 rejection and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. New Claim 21 is therefore allowable.

Reconsideration of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested. The specification has been amended to make it clear that reference numeral 52 designates only the support. Regarding reference numeral 18, Applicant respectfully submits that only the motor is designated in Figs. 1 and 2. While the lead line in Fig. 1 does point to the drive shaft, the drive shaft is part of the motor, and therefore the lead line also points to the motor. No correction should be required.

The specification has been amended in Paragraphs 36, 40 and 41 to make clear the difference between reference numerals 52 and 54.

The claims have been amended in response to the objections to the claims and in response to the Section 112 rejections.

Reconsideration of the prior art rejections is respectfully requested. Original Claim 1 was rejected as being anticipated by Woollenweber et al. (US 6,129,524) as well as by Prevond et al. (FR 2 815 671 A1). While Applicant does not agree that these references anticipate original Claim 1 (Woollenweber et al. does not show a flow channel running in the circumferential direction of the first housing part, and the housing in Prevond et al. cannot be separated into a first housing part, which contains at least one compressor impeller arranged in a compression area, and a second housing part for an electric motor), Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of original Claim 3. Applicants note that Claim 3 was not rejected as being anticipated by Prevond.

Amended Claim 1 is related to a device to compress combustion air, with a housing (12), with at least one compressor impeller (30) arranged in a compression area (28) of a first housing part (14), which is arranged in the flow direction between an air inlet (24) and an air outlet (43) of the housing (12), as well as with an electric motor (18) arranged in a second housing part (16) of the housing (12) to operate the compressor impeller (30), whereby a flow channel (42) running in the circumferential direction of the first housing part (12) and connecting the compression area (28) with the air outlet (43) surrounds the electric motor (18) at least partially in the axial direction. The device is characterized in that electronic components (54) of the motor electronics of the driving electric motor (18) are integrated in such a way in the second housing part (16) that the electronic components (54) are cooled predominantly via the flow channel (42).

This construction is not suggested by Woollenweber et al. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's statement that the electronic components (electronic power package 22) of the motor electronics of the driving motor (electric motor 12) in Woollenweber et al. are integrated in the second housing part. The housing in Woollenweber et al. consists of an external housing (20) for the compressor impeller (centrifugal compressor wheel 16) as a first housing part and a central motor housing (18) for the electric motor (12) as a second housing part.

Claim 1 requires that the electronic components of the motor electronics of the driving electric motor are integrated in the second housing part, which would mean that the electronic components (22) of Woollenweber et al. must be integrated in the central motor housing (18), but this is not the case. According to Figures 3 and 6 of Woollenweber et al., the electronic components (22) are always integrated in the external housing (20) leading to a more complex flow channel (generated by an enclosure 44 or by a bypass duct 46), which, furthermore, does not run in a circumferential but in an axial direction as mentioned above.

Therefore, Woollenweber et al. does not teach or suggest the construction of amended Claim 1. Claim 1 and dependent claims 2, 4-16 and 18-20 are therefore allowable. The dependent claim also include additional patentable subject matter.

In view of the foregoing, entry of the above amendment and allowance of Claims 1, 2, 4-16 and 18-21 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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